Expansion of Air India Fleet

147· SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Public Investment Board to allow Air India (AI) for expansion of its fleet costing Rs· 1,100 crores for purchase of two Boeing 747-400s engines from Pratt and Whitney;

(b) if so, when the same are expected to arrive in India;

(c) whether Air India has also invited financial bids from Global Exim Institutions; and

(d) if so, what is the response from them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Public Investment Board, in its 419th meeting held on 29-12-94 recommended for Government's approval, the proposal of Air India for acquisition of two B747-400 aircraft fitted with Pratt and Whitney engines, at an estimated cost of Rs. 1137·70 crores· Subsequently, the proposal was approved by the Government and the two aircrafts are expected to arrive in India in July and August, 1996·

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Corruption charges against ITDC Officials

148· DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of corruption charges against the officials of ITDC including its Chairman which are pending at present;

(b) Since when those are pending;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present Chairman of ITDC has been on probation for the last more than three years and if so, since when;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the appointment of the Chairman is being regularised notwithstanding the corruption charges against him;

(e) whether those charges were enquired into by the CBI and Central Vigilance Commission and if so, the details of their findings and action taken thereon; and

(f) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Corruption charges made by different quarters are examined by the Vigilance Division of ITDC and other Agencies. If the Charges are substantiated. disciplinary action is initiated. At present a total of 35 such cases are pending. These involve a total of 86 officials of ITDC. The charges pertain to:

I. Administrative Irregularities

(a) LTC claims.

(b) disproportionate assets.

(c) misuse of official position

(d) submission of fake SC|ST certificates.

(e) submission of bogus educational certificates.

(f) filling up of ACRs of fellow employee.

(g) shortage of duty free shop items.

(h) Non-realisation of amount from party who stayed at Hotel.